United Nations ECE/TRADE/C/WP.7/GE.2/2014/10

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
7 April 2014

Original: English

Economic Commission for Europe

Committee on Trade

Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards

Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce
Sixty-first session
Geneva, 16-19 June 2014
Item 7 of the provisional agenda
Development of Sampling Plans for tree nuts and for dried fruit

Sampling plans for tree nuts and for dried produce

Submitted by the delegations of Germany and the International Nut and Dried Fruit Council (INC)

The following proposal was submitted by the delegations of Germany and the International Nut and Dried Fruit Council (INC). The proposed draft sampling plan for dry and dried produce which describes sampling and assessment of the samples is based on the OECD Operating Rules for Conformity Checks, i.e. starting with Section 2.7 "Sampling" and follows the structure of that document, although it would eventually become a separate section.

2.7 Sampling in dry and dried produce

A conformity check shall be made by assessing bulk or composite samples. It is based on the principle of presumption that the quality of the randomly taken samples is representative of the quality of the lot.

The inspector selects at random the primary samples to be inspected. If secondary or reduced samples are required, these shall be identified at random by the inspector from the bulk sample.

Care should be taken to ensure that the removal of samples does not adversely affect the quality of the produce.

Damaged packages should not be used as part of the bulk sample. They should be set aside and may, if necessary, be subject to a separate examination and report.

GE.14-21845

1421845

Please recycle

2.7.1 Sample size in case of conformity

The inspector shall determine the size of the bulk sample in such a way as to be able to assess the lot

2.7.2 Sample size in case of non-conformity

The bulk sample shall comprise the following minimum quantities whenever a lot is declared unsatisfactory:

Packed produce	
Number of packages in the lot	*Number of packages (primary samples) to be taken to constitute the bulk sample*
up to 100	5
101 to 300	7
301 to 500	9
501 to 1000	10
over 1000	minimum 15

2.7.2.1 Secondary sample

In the case of packed produce, secondary samples have to be taken from each primary sample to constitute the composite sample. The minimum size of the secondary sample taken from each primary sample shall be

- between 300 g and 1 kilo, in case the produce is packed loose in the package or
- 1 or more sales packages in case of produce packed in packages containing sales packages.

The composite sample should be at least 3 kg. Produce in the composite sample must be evenly mixed.

2.7.2.2 Reduced sample

The reduced sample is taken from the composite sample and must comprise at least:

2 x 100 nuts in case of nuts in shell

1 kg (plus 1 kg) in case of nut kernels

1 kg (plus 1 kg) in case of dried grapes and dried berry fruits

2 x 1 kg in case of other dried produce (very irregular and sticky)

2.8 Physical check

2.8.1 Verification of packaging and presentation

The packaging, including the material used within the package, shall be checked for suitability and cleanliness according to the provisions of the relevant standard. This shall be done on the basis of primary samples, in case of packed produce and in all other cases on the basis of the lot or transport vehicle. If only certain types of packaging or presentation are permitted, the inspector checks whether these are being used. Moreover, this check is used to get a general impression of the lot.

2.8.2 Verification of marking

The marking shall be checked for correctness, completeness and readability according to the provisions of the standard. This shall be done on the basis of primary samples, in case of packed produce and in all other cases on the basis of the lot or transport vehicle. In case of sales packages presented in packages, it is checked whether the possible marking of the sales packages and that of the packages is not misleading.

Unless legal provisions so specify, fruit and vegetables individually wrapped in plastic are not considered as pre-packed foodstuff and do not necessarily need to be marked in accordance with the standard. In such cases, the plastic wrapping can be considered a simple protection for fragile produce.

2.8.3 Verification of characteristics of the produce

The characteristics of the produce shall be checked for conformity with the minimum requirements, classification, sizing, and uniformity according to the provisions of the standard. This shall be done on the basis of the reduced sample.

The explanatory brochures published by the OECD Scheme for the Application of International Standards for Fruit and Vegetables[1] or by the UNECE[2] are taken into account when assessing the produce.

For dry and dried produce, the criteria on the degree of development and/or moisture content can be checked using the instruments and methods laid down to this end in the standard.

If during inspection it becomes obvious that the lot is heterogeneous, the lot should be separated – if possible – in homogenous lots. If this is not possible, the report of non-conformity should mention the heterogeneous character of the lot.

2.8.4 Determination of inspection result

The result of inspection is representative for the lot, as all samples (primary, secondary and reduced sample) are taken at random.

In the case where defects are detected, the inspector shall ascertain the respective percentage of the produce not in conformity with the standard by number or weight – as specified in the standard.

If the percentage of defects found is close to the tolerance another bulk sample must be checked. The overall result is reported as an average of the two checks.

2.9 Report of control results

According to the respective legal provisions of the individual countries and depending on the results of control, a report on the findings may be made in the form of a conformity certificate or a report of non-conformity.

2.9.1 Conformity certificate

The authorised control service may issue a Certificate of Conformity as set out in Appendix I, if the produce is in conformity with the relevant standard.

---

[1] http://www.oecd.org/tad/fv

[2] http://www.unece.org/trade/agr

Several lots may be listed on the same Conformity Certificate if these are uniform with respect to the key criteria such as packer/dispatcher/shipper, receiver and/or means of transport.

2.9.2 Report of non-conformity

If defects are found leading to non-conformity, the trader must be informed about these defects and the percentage found as well as the reasons of complaint. This information must be made according to the legal provisions of the individual countries. If the compliance of produce with the standard is possible by a change in marking or by re-grading, the trader must be informed.

2.10 Stop-notice

A lot for which a finding of non-conformity has been issued may not be moved without the authorisation of the authorised control service issuing that non-conformity report. This authorisation can be subject to the conditions laid down by the authorised control service.

2.11 Re-inspection

The trader may decide to bring all or part of the lot into conformity. A lot brought into conformity may not be marketed before the authorised control service has ensured by all appropriate means that the lot has actually been brought into conformity. The inspector may issue a conformity certificate for the lot or part thereof only once the lot has been brought into conformity.

2.12 Record of control results

The authorised control service shall develop and maintain a system of recording the inspection results.

2.13 Notification of non-conformity

In case of defects or deterioration which could have been detected at the time of packaging, the authorised control service competent at export/dispatch has to be informed. To facilitate this notification, the notification form and codes laid down to this end in *Document to Facilitate the Exchange of Information Between National Control Services of Exporting and Importing Countries on Non-Conformity of Fruit and Vegetables*[3] should be used.

2.14 Decline in value by conformity checks

After the conformity check, the bulk/composite sample is put at the disposal of the trader.

Unless legal provisions so specify, the authorised control service is not bound to hand back the elements of the bulk/composite sample destroyed during the conformity check.

Unless legal provisions so specify, no compensation can be claimed from the authorised control service if the commercial value of the produce has suffered a loss.

[3] http://www.oecd.org/tad/fv

2.15 Communication

It is recommended that the authorised control service develops and cultivates regular communication to the industry as well as to other authorised control services.